

prosecutors to pursue hate-crime cases if local authorities refuse to press charges.

Unfortunately, hate violence is becoming an all too common occurrence in our communities. That an individual could be so filled with rage for his or her fellow human being is unthinkable—but it has happened in small towns and big cities across this nation and it will continue to happen, until and unless we stand up to bigotry and hate by ensuring that the civil rights of all people are protected. The expanded Hate Crimes legislation that was included in the Senate Defense Authorization bill was just that kind of tool.

The defeat of expanded hate crimes legislation ignores overwhelming public support for this critical civil rights legislation. Since 1998 when an African American man was tied to the back of a truck and dragged to death by white supremacists in Jasper, Texas, several high profile hate crimes have continued to shock our country, including a hate based killing spree that profoundly touched my community during July 4th celebrations in 1999.

I am proud to represent one of the most diverse districts in America and I will continue to stand with my constituents against bigotry and hate and actively work to expand and improve the federal Hate Crimes law. We cannot and we should not leave Washington without ensuring that the civil rights of all Americans are honored and protected.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE BRUCE VENTO,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives lost one of our most respected members and the nation lost a lifelong advocate for the homeless and the environment. A true public servant, BRUCE VENTO used his seat in Congress for 24 years to champion programs to eliminate homelessness, increase funding for community investment and economic development, and, of course, to protect our environment.

I had the privilege of serving with BRUCE VENTO on the Banking Committee, where he worked tirelessly to establish the emergency shelters grant program, preserve the Federal Housing Authority, provide increased funding for community development programs, and ensure adequate consumer protection. Those who live in low-income communities, the poor, and the homeless, may not have high-priced lobbyists advocating for them, but they did have BRUCE VENTO. Through his work, he gave a voice to Americans who too often go unheard.

Yesterday, we lost a friend and a colleague. But those Americans whose lives BRUCE VENTO worked so hard to improve lost an advocate and a voice.

My thoughts are with the Vento family, and his constituents in Minnesota. I and the other Members of this body who were fortunate to work with him over the years will miss him greatly.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA CHAVEZ-
RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this past Monday morning this country lost a great individual, a true pioneer in the Hispanic movement as well as in the movement of women in organized labor.

I speak of Linda Chavez-Rodriguez. Daughter of the great Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW), and wife of current UFW president, Arturo Rodriguez.

She began her career at age 11, when she worked in the fields and vineyards to help support her family. She continued her efforts by joining walkouts in 1973 when the California grape workers went on strike. Earning as little as \$3 a week as a farm worker, she often wondered how her family would survive.

As her father's popularity grew, and growers became more aware of his efforts, strong repercussions were felt by the family members. During high school her education was threatened and other students taunted her sisters and her for defending what was moral and just. They were misunderstood and misrepresented. Fellow students believed them to be well off and have many luxuries. Growing up in an extremely worn two bedroom, one bath wood-frame house with 10 family members is not what I call living in luxury.

After high school, Linda's dedication to labor continued through her volunteer work for the UFW, by helping farm workers obtain their union cards and keep their files in order. Soon after that, she followed in her father's footsteps by joining thousands of grape workers in California when they shut down the fields in a bloody strike against the growers. In Detroit she picketed in freezing snow with fire hoses being turned on them, and yet they still fought for what was right. She also made another change in Detroit she met her husband, Arturo Rodriguez.

For the next 14 years, Linda worked along side her husband throughout California. The family fought hard to continue her father's legacy and dedication. Avoiding any type of limelight, she stayed close to her family and continued her work.

In 1990 her family moved back to La Paz where she continued to raise her son and two daughters. After many years of putting her own pain aside, the Lord felt that it was Linda's time to rest.

She leaves a proud legacy and a wonderful family behind. She will never be forgotten.

EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY OF MARY
LOUISE QUIGG CALDWELL
PLUMER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize one of my constituents and very dear friends, Mary Louise Quigg Caldwell Plumer, of Miami, Florida, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on October 21st, 2000.

Mary was born October 21, 1920 in Live Oak, Florida. Her parents moved to Miami when she was 6 years of age, where she was educated and graduated from Ponce de Leon High School in 1938. She served as editor of the school newspaper and was awarded the Woman's Club Cup as the "Most Outstanding Girl." Mary continued her education at the Florida State College for Woman (FSCW), becoming a member of the Sophomore Council, the Cotillion Club and the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She graduated from FSCW in 1940 and transferred to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where she was awarded the Valkyrie Cup as the most outstanding Coed of the University, graduating in 1942.

Moving to Atlanta, Georgia in 1942, she worked as the publicity director for radio station WSB. She returned to Miami and contributed to the War effort by working for the Red Cross as staff assistant to the Army Air Corps Redistribution Unit in Miami Beach where she met her husband to be, Naval Lt. Commander Richard B. Plumer. He was graduated from Miami High School, Philips Exeter Academy and Princeton University summa cum laude.

Mary raised 4 children and became actively involved in many worth-while community projects. Among her accomplishments, she brilliantly led a committee to build the All Faith Chapel at Jackson Memorial Hospital in 1973, 5 years after her daughter died there. She has had articles published in The Miami Herald and Reader's Digest. She was awarded the M.O.M. Cup in 2000 as the Most Outstanding Mother. She also earned a prestigious reference in Who's Who of American Women.

I want to join Mary's family and friends in wishing her a wonderful celebration and many more happy and healthy birthdays.

THE DETROIT RED WINGS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight is a night that many people in Detroit look forward to all year long. Tonight is the Season "Home Opener" in Hockeytown. The Detroit Red Wings open their 75th season, tonight at Joe Louis Arena. The Red Wings, in their 75 years in Detroit, have become more than just a sports team in our hometown, they are a part of the community. There is a reason that Detroit is known as Hockeytown, and it isn't simply our love for the team. Hockey is a part of our lives in Detroit. Many Detroiters remember their first pickup games played on a neighborhood pond with their childhood friends. Our children, with the invention of rollerblades, now play street hockey year round in our neighborhood streets and driveways, or anywhere else they can find a smooth surface. It's not simply our climate, which is conducive to hockey, nor is it our proximity to Canada, the origin of the game, it's partly our attitude, and part our love for the game. But a large part of the reason we are known as Hockeytown is the fact that the Red Wings have helped shape Detroit for the past 75 years.

The Red Wings began in the early 1920's with a group of investors led by Detroiters Charles Hughes. He convinced the Detroit Athletic Club to create a new team for the National Hockey League. They began playing in